AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

- 1. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting B-cell growth <u>or immunoglobulin</u> <u>production, or both,</u> in an <u>animal mammal</u> comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof; and
 - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
 - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

Claims 2 - 3. (canceled)

- 4. (currently amended) A method of treatment of an autoimmune disease comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a composition selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof; and
 - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
 - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.

Claims 5 - 6. (canceled)

- 7. (currently amended) A method of treating B-cell lympho-proliferate disorders comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a B-cell growth inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof;
 - (b) a chimeric molecule comprising a BAFF-R polypeptide or fragment thereof fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence; and
 - (c) an anti-BAFF-R antibody homolog.
- 8. (currently amended) A method according to <u>any one of claims 1, to 7 4, and 7</u>, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is soluble.
- 9. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the soluble BAFF-R polypeptide comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain.
- 10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein the BAFF-R extracellular domain is fused to an immunoglobulin.
- 11. (currently amended) A method according to <u>any one of claims 1, to 7 4,</u>
 and 7, wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of
 - a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;

- an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
- an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
- d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51
 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and
- e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41
 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof.

Claims 12 - 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The method according to <u>any one of claims 14 1, 4, and 7</u>, wherein the mammal is human.

Claims 16 - 18. (canceled)

19. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide or a fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

- 20. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of:
 - a) an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid
 residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
 - b) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
 - an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof;
 - d) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51
 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof; and
 - e) an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof.
- 21. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide fragment comprises a BAFF-R extracellular domain fused to an immunoglobulin.
- 22. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.

- 23. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of binding to BAFF.
- 24. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with native sequence BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 184 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of binding to BAFF.
- 25. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.
- 26. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1 or a fragment thereof capable of biding to BAFF.
- 27. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% identity with to amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.

- 28. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% identity with to amino acid residues 8 to 41 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 29. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 80% identity with to amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 30. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 wherein the isolated BAFF-R polypeptide is an isolated BAFF-R polypeptide having at least 90% identity with to amino acid residues 1 to 51 of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 31. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 22 to 28 wherein the BAFF-R polypeptide is fused to an immunoglobulin constant region.